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divided against itself. If this tendency has been observed in England to anything like the same extent as in this country, the difficult situation pictured by Mr. Pratt (pp. 177-79) as the result of trade-union family quarrels may be more imaginary than real.

As a call to trade-unionists to put their house in order, Mr. Pratt's strictures might serve a very useful purpose, but as a criticism of trade-union policy and practice his conclusions must be accepted as the *ex parte* judgments of a biased observer. The book is interesting and informational, but the reader must take the facts at his own valuation, rather than accept the author's interpretation of them. For the impression grows upon one as he reads that the investigation was not a colorless seeking after truth, but an attempt to find facts which would bear out a theory already formed, and that the trade-unionist was really judged without notice and without a hearing.

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*The Second General Report and The Twentieth Annual Report of the New York Department of Labor.* By JOHN McMACKIN, Commissioner. Albany: The Argus Co., 1904. 2 vols., 8vo, pp. viii + 1172 and 877.

This second report of the New York Department of Labor, which was created under an act of 1901 by the consolidation of several independent departments having to do with industrial conditions, contains some justification for the consolidation on the ground of economy of administration. The number of employees in the various bureaus under the present arrangement has been reduced one-fourth, and a corresponding reduction has been made in expenditures. The fifty-page review of the work of the bureaus for the year is another obvious gain. The binding together of the independent reports of the commissioner, the Free Employment Bureau, the Bureau of Factory Inspection, and that of the Bureau of Mediation and Arbitration, in a single volume, is a doubtful gain.

The Free Employment Bureau in its seventh year had 5,903 applications for work and 4,106 applications for help, and it secured positions for 3,662 persons. It has not displaced the private "employment agencies" nor eliminated their vicious practices. The report is pervaded by a tone of hopefulness for the bureau's increased future service.

The report of the Board of Mediation and Arbitration for its sixteenth year lacks that tone of faith in the state-board plan of settling industrial disputes which usually characterizes such reports. The reason is clear from a survey of its recent activities. How many industrial disputes there were in the state during the year does not appear; but 142 of them "came under the notice" of the board, and 32 received "particular attention" of some member of it. In but 6 of these cases did a request come from either party for mediation, and in but one case was there a joint request from the parties concerned. The board points to the practice, being adopted in some cities, of inserting in franchises granted, especially those granted to traction companies, a requirement that questions in dispute with employees be submitted to arbitration, as a promising device for preventing disturbances to business and a proper way of increasing the usefulness of state boards of arbitration. Another hopeful sign of peace it finds in the growing practice of making "trade agreements." The necessity for its own continued existence is to be found in the services it proposes hereafter to render, "to the full extent of its authority," by investigating and making public the reasons for all disputes that involve large public interests.

The report of the Bureau of Factory Inspection (602 pages) and the report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (which occupies the 1,172 pages of Volume III) have chiefly to do with "home industries" and the "sweating system."

Most of the reports have a large amount of excellent matter in the form of reprints from other reports.

G. O. VIRTUE.

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*Fifty Years of Progress and the New Fiscal Policy.* By LORD BRASSEY. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1904. 8vo, pp. 109.

*Fiscal Facts and Fictions: A Strictly Commercial View of the Tariff Problem.* By FREDERICK G. SHAW. London: Bailliere, Tindall & Cox, 1904. 8vo, pp. viii + 240.

*La politique protectionniste en Angleterre: Un nouveau danger pour la France.* By GEORGES BLONDEL. Paris: Victor Lecoffre, 1904. 8vo, pp. xv + 161.

The first-named book deals very briefly with a variety of subjects — duties on food, retaliation, free trade, fiscal union of the empire,